

REMARKS

After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-23 will be pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 6-9, 12, 15 and 16 have been amended in an editorial manner, and not in response to prior art or any formal defect. Claims 17-23 are newly presented. The specification has been amended to update the patenting of mentioned patent applications, and to address minor typographical issues. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 503-495-4575 if any questions arise.

Date: February 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

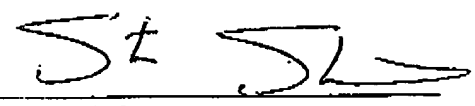
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